Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

International Activities and Projects



Mark Guetlich International Patent Policy Office of Policy and External Affairs August 15, 2013



- Harmonization Overview
- Recent Activity
- Highlighted Projects



Harmonization Overview

What is it and why?

Prompted by Stakeholder Interests Worldwide

Ability to obtain and enforce accessible, reliable, meaningful IP rights domestically and/or internationally.

For Patents - attention to cost, quality, & timeliness from a user and office perspective.

Operational/Technical

- No law changes required
 - Work sharing platforms
 (PPH, Global Dossier)
 - Processes & formats (CCD, PDX)
 - Language/ search (GPSN, CPC)

Substantive Law

- Law/treaty/policy changese.g., AIA First Inventor to File
 - Prior art grace period
 - -Other possibilities



Harmonization Overview Worldwide Interplay of Participants

- IP5 Offices JPO, EPO, USPTO, KIPO, SIPO
 - Handling ~90% of world's patent workload
- Vancouver Group CIPO, UKIPO, IPAU
 - Like minded interests of sophisticated offices
- Group B+ EPC members & industrialized states
 - Wide range of topics, and progress
- PROSUR 9 South American countries
- Tegernsee Harmonization specific topics among lead EPC members, USPTO, JPO



Proposed rules drafted and in the interagency review process

- Next Steps:
 - Public comment period expected fall 2013
 - Desired project completion within 2014



- Today 30 offices worldwide; 26 with USPTO
- Next generation proposal "Plurilateral" PPH
 - June 21-22, 2013 at Japan Patent Office
 - 24 offices discussed a unified PPH proposal
 - 12 offices (88% of PPH) agreed immediately
 - Early adopters targeting Jan 2014 start date
 - IP5 commitment to adopt Plurilateral PPH



- Interoffice connectivity is complete within IP5
- USPTO examiner access to IP5 office data is part of Patents End-to-End (PE2E) in FY2014
- Next Steps:
 - IP5 working level meeting at JPO, Oct 2013
 - 2nd Combined Taskforce meeting early 2014
 - Improving taskforce status communications



Recent Activity:

Hosted IP5 Office Heads, Cupertino, CA

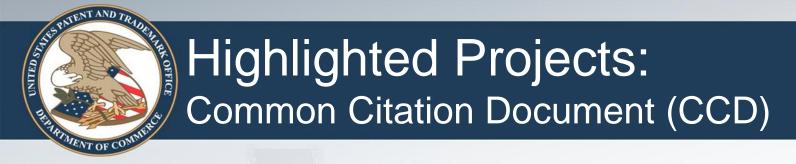
- June 3-5, 2013; Acting Director Rea presiding
- Notable steps:
 - Trilateral on standby, all projects transferred
 - Industry IP5 reps are fully staffed & engaged
 - New IP5 project management model in place
 - Projects managed across three workgroups
 - Each workgroup has full IP5 working-level staffing
 - Projects adopted only by agreement of IP5 heads
 - Offices participate as budgets & roadmaps dictate
 - www.uspto.gov/news/pr/2013/13-20.jsp



Highlighted Projects:

Global Patent Search Network (GPSN)

- Chinese patent documents for search/download
 - Full text Chinese, machine translated English
 - Chinese language original is the authority
 - Published & granted invention patents & utility models
- Launched July 2013 http://gpsn.uspto.gov
- Next language Japanese



- Common language and content format
- Single access point for art cited by all offices
- Harmonization project launched Nov 2011
 - Started in Trilateral, now transferred to IP5
 - USPTO, JPO, EPO, & next KIPO, SIPO
- For a CCD demonstration, try the examples at:
 - www.fiveipoffices.org/ccd
 - www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search



Questions and Comments?

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